



# **U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND**

## ***BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH***

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://www.soc.mil>

## **BRIG. GEN. KURT L. SONNTAG**

### **Deputy Commanding General**

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Brig. Gen. Kurt L. Sonntag is a native of California and a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Before assuming the duties as deputy commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Sonntag returned from deployment where he commanded an Inter-Agency Advisory Detachment in support of National Security goals and objectives.

Brig. Gen. Sonntag began his military career as an infantry officer in 1986. While in the infantry, Sonntag served as a Bradley platoon leader, scout platoon leader and aviation operations officer with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division.

After attending the Infantry Officer's Advance Course and the Special Forces Qualification Course in 1991, Sonntag served as a detachment commander, battalion logistics officer, support company commander and company commander in 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Ky.



After leaving the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in 1997, Sonntag served as a company and battalion observer/controller with the Special Operations Training Detachment at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.

Upon completing the Naval Command and Staff College at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., in 2000, he returned to the 5<sup>th</sup> SFG (A) to command another company, serve as a battalion's executive officer during Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan, and as the 5<sup>th</sup> SFG (A) executive officer. Brig. Gen. Sonntag also served as the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-West & Arabian Peninsula's Chief of Staff during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following a brief assignment as the Chief of Joint and Army Concepts Division for the Army Special Operations Battle Lab, Sonntag commanded 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Warfare Training Group and later served as the operations officer for the United States Army Special Forces Command (Airborne). After fulfilling his United States Army War College requirements in 2009, Sonntag deployed to Pakistan to serve as the Special Operations Command Central (Forward) – Pakistan commander in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Brig. Gen. Sonntag holds a Master of Arts in Military History from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La., and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy Studies from the Naval War College. Brig. Gen. Sonntag is also a Harvard Kennedy School National Security Fellow. His military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal and numerous other medals and awards.

Brig. Gen. Sonntag is married to the former Ms. Deirdre (Dee) Fahey and they have two children.